

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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EUR:JAARMITAGE

IO/UNP:GBHELMAN

S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199267 TOSEC 200337

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO, TU

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - POSSIBILITY OF NAC MEETING ON
AEGEAN (S/S NO. 7617169)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ARMITAGE, ACTING, THROUGH HABIB

REF: A) STATE 197570 (TOSEC 200252); B) USNATO 4439;
-- C) SECTO 20117

1. THE PROBLEM; YOU HAVE ASKED FOR OUR ANALYSIS AND
RECOMMENDATION ON POSSIBILITY OF NAC MEETING ON THE AEGEAN
SITUATION (REF C). ESSENTIALLY OUR RECOMMENDATION REMAINS
THAT CONTAINED IN REF A. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GREECE CAN BE
BROUGHT TO ASK FOR A NAC MEETING AT THIS STAGE IN LIEU OF
A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, AND WE RECOMMEND YOU APPROVE
A CABLE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO USNATO ALONG THE LINES OF
SUGGESTED MESSAGE CONTAINED REF A.

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2. DISCUSSION: WE UNDERSTAND PANSA'S CONCERN THAT NATO

WILL APPEAR IMPOTENT OR UNINTERESTED IF NAC MEETING NOT HELD, AND WE WOULD PREFER TO TRY TO WORK OUT PROBLEM IN NATO (OR BILATERAL) CONTEXT IF POSSIBLE RATHER THAN SEEING ISSUE MOVED TO SECURITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT GREECE IS TOO FAR COMMITTED PUBLICLY TO SECURITY

COUNCIL MEETING TO BACK DOWN. WE UNDERSTAND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK SOME TIME TODAY OR TONIGHT AND THERE COULD WELL BE A SC MEETING BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK. A NAC MEETING, WHICH KARAMANLIS OPPOSES, WOULD NOT DETER GOG FROM GOING THIS ROUTE. THERE IS LITTLE NAC COULD DO AT THIS POINT OTHER THAN TO ISSUE AN APPEAL FOR MODERATION TO BOTH SIDES WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY NOT SATISFY GOG AND WOULD NOT AID THE IMAGE OF NATO.

3. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE AS DO OTHER ALLIES (REF B) THAT NATO SHOULD REMAIN ENGAGED THROUGH PRIVATE APPROACHES BY PANSA TO THE GREEK AND TURKISH PERMREPS, BUT THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO CONVENE THE NAC ON THIS ISSUE WOULD LIKELY BE ABORTIVE AND A SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL ANTAGONISM. THE BASIC PROBLEM WITH NATO INVOLVEMENT IS THAT ALLIANCE REMAINS IN VERY BAD POLITICAL ODOR IN GREECE BECAUSE OF ITS ALLEGED INABILITY TO ACT DURING 1974 CYPRUS CRISIS. THUS, ANY GREEK CONCESSIONS OR PERCEIVED CONCESSIONS STEMMING FROM NATO INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE LESS PALATABLE TO GREEK PUBLIC OPINION THAN IF SOME OTHER AGENCY (SUCH AS ICJ) WERE ENGAGED.

4. IN RECOMMENDING AGAINST A NAC AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT DISCARD THE POSSIBILITY OF A POST-SC ROLE FOR NATO. GREECE IS UNLIKELY TO GET THE KIND OF SATISFACTION IT SEEKS IN THE SC. AFTER MAKING ITS PUBLIC BID IN NEW YORK, GREECE MAY THEREAFTER BE MORE AMENABLE TO A NATO--OR NATO-RELATED--GOOD OFFICES EFFORT.

5. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT YOU APPROVE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION TO USNATO.

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APPROVE DISAPPROVE

6. SUGGESTED MESSAGE TO USNATO, REPEATED TO ATHENS, ANKARA.

BEGIN TEXT:

WE CONCUR WITH OTHER ALLIES THAT NAC MEETING ON AEGEAN

WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AT THIS STAGE. PROPER COURSE FOR THE
MOMENT IS FOR PANSA TO CONTINUE HIS PRIVATE APPROACHES TO
GREEK AND TURKISH PERMREPS, AND FOR OTHER NATIONS AS WELL
TO APPEAL BILATERALLY FOR RESTRAINT BY BOTH PARTIES. WE
HAVE MADE MAJOR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD AND ARE CONTINUING
THEM. END TEXT.

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S - HDCOLLUMS
ROBINSON

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